

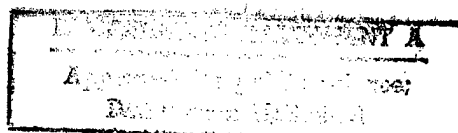


**SPOUSE ABUSE
U.S. ARMY CENTRAL REGISTRY
(1989-1996, REVISED)**



19980909 000

Analysis Conducted by the Family Violence and Trauma Project
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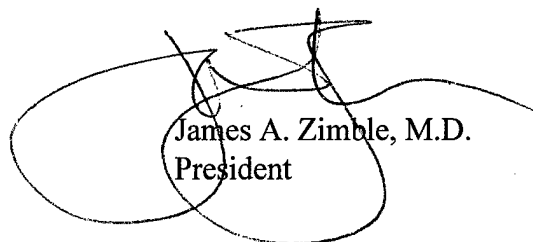
Psychiatry

MEMORANDUM FOR DTIC

SUBJECT: Submission of Technical Report to the Defense Technical Information Center
(DTIC)

Attached are two copies of the technical report, "Spouse Abuse, U.S. Army Central Registry (1989-1996, Revised)" and accompanying documentation for submission to DTIC. This publication is a compilation of spouse abuse statistics from the Army Central Registry from 1989-1996. The information provided in the report will be a valuable source of statistics of Army spouse abuse cases for researchers, clinicians, and administrators who have an interest in this topic.

This document has been prepared as per the requirements of DTIC and is accompanied by submission form SF 298.


James A. Zimble, M.D.
President

Attachments:

Two copies of technical report
Form 298

Self-addressed DTIC postcard



***This report was prepared for the U.S. Army
Community and Family Support Center, Family
Advocacy Program under an Inter-Service Support
Agreement between the Department of the Army
and the Department of Defense, Uniformed
Services University of the Health Sciences,
Department of Psychiatry.***

**NOTE: THIS MATERIAL MAY BE REPRODUCED FOR
FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM USE.**

*Analysis Conducted by the
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and
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Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
INTRODUCTION	7
INITIAL SUBSTANTIATED INCIDENTS	8
Sources of Referral to Family Advocacy	8
Fatalities	9
Type of Maltreatment	9
Victim Age	10
Victim Race/Ethnicity	11
Victim Sex	11
Victim Sex by Type of Abuse	11
Victim Age Group by Type of Abuse	12
Major Physical Injury	12
Minor Physical Injury	13
Emotional Maltreatment	14
Residence of Victim and Location of Incident	15
Treatment of Victims	15
Victim Substance Involvement	15
Offender Age	16
Offender Sex	17
Offender Race/Ethnicity	17
Offender Substance Involvement	17

Offender History of Violence and Abuse	18
Military and Civil Actions Following Spouse Abuse Cases	18
FREQUENCIES AND RATES OF ABUSE	19
Population of U.S. Army Spouses, 1989-1996	19
Frequencies of U.S. Army Spouse Abuse Cases, 1989-1996	20
Rates of Spouse Abuse in the U.S. Army, 1989-1996	20
SUBSEQUENT INCIDENTS	21
RE-OPENED CASES	22
PERCENTAGE OF RECIDIVIST CASES COMPARED TO INITIAL CASES	22
LIMITATIONS OF THE DATA	23
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	24
GLOSSARY	25
APPENDIX	27

SPOUSE ABUSE U.S. ARMY CENTRAL REGISTRY (1989-1996, Revised)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Army Central Registry. This report is an analysis of the Army spouse abuse incidents recorded in the Army Central Registry (ACR), a centralized, confidential data base and source of training in the reporting of spouse abuse and child abuse and neglect cases. It is maintained by the Family Advocacy Support Section, Customer Service Division/Patient Administration and Biostatistics Activity (PASBA), Fort Sam Houston, Texas. It includes only cases involving Army sponsors. Spouse abuse cases from other services, retired military personnel, and civilians who were eligible for Family Advocacy Program (FAP) services were not included.

Types of Case Data Recorded. The ACR records the source of case referral, the demographic characteristics of the victim and offender, the type of maltreatment, substance involvement of victim and offender, location of victim residence (on or off post) and where the incident occurred (on or off post). The relationship of the offender to the victim, the offender's history of violence, and the military and civil actions that occur as a result of the case are also recorded.

Initial Substantiated Cases. There were 56,287 initial substantiated cases of spouse abuse (see Glossary) for the Army in the ACR from 1989-1996, an average of about 7,000 new cases per year. During this period, the rates of spouse abuse per year for initial substantiated cases have been between 7.9 and 10.2 per 1,000 married persons. Case substantiation rates have been between 68% and 82%.

Subsequent Incidents and Re-opened Cases. There were 5,065 subsequent incidents (9.0% of the initial substantiated cases) and 3,493 re-opened cases (6.2% of the initial substantiated cases).

Army Population Data. The Army population figures were obtained from the ASM Corporation's Family Data Base. This data base is contracted by the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center (CFSC) using raw data from the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and the Army Enlisted and Officer Master Files. Rates per 1,000 were obtained by dividing the number of cases by the population of married persons and multiplying that figure by 1,000.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOR INITIAL SUBSTANTIATED CASES

- ◆ **Referral Sources.** The major sources of initial referrals were law enforcement (45.3%), medical/dental (18.5%) and command (15.3%). Eight percent were victim self-referrals.

- ◆ **Victim Sex.** The percentage of female victims was 67.0%; the percentage of male victims was 33.0%.
- ◆ **Types of Maltreatment.** The most frequently reported category of spouse maltreatment was minor physical injury, 94.1% of the cases. Emotional maltreatment accounted for 8.3% of the cases, and major physical injury for 2.7%.
- ◆ **Ages of Victims.** The largest number of victims was in the age group of 22 to 26 years (40.2%). Approximately 94% of all spouse victims were between the ages of 18 and 36.
- ◆ **Ages of Offenders.** The largest number of offenders was in the age group 22 to 26 years (41.2%). Approximately 94% of the offenders were between the ages of 18-36.
- ◆ **Race/Ethnic Group of Victims.** The number of black victims was 26,188 which represented 47.2% of all spouse abuse victims. The number of white victims was 22,424, or 40.4% of all victims. The number of Hispanic victims was 4,594, or 8.3%. The percentage of black victims was greater than would be expected based on the percentage of married black soldiers in the Army (27.5% in 1996). The percentage of white married soldiers in the Army in 1996 was 60.3%.
- ◆ **Race/Ethnic Group of Offenders.** The number of black offenders was 27,869 which represented 50.4% of all spouse abuse offenders. The number of white offenders was 21,145 which represented 38.2% of all offenders. There were 4,542 Hispanic offenders, or 8.2%.
- ◆ **Victim Substance Involvement.** Alcohol involvement was reported in 17.2% of cases. Substance abuse was recorded as "Unknown" in 18% of cases. "No involvement" was reported in 65% of the victim cases.
- ◆ **Offender Substance Involvement.** For offenders, alcohol was involved in 23.6% of the cases. Substance abuse was reported as "Unknown" in 18.4% of the cases, and "No Involvement" was reported for 57.4% of offenders.
- ◆ **Treatment of Victims.** The majority of victims (91.0%) received social services treatment. Outpatient medical treatment was provided in 23.5% of the victims and inpatient treatment was provided in 1.3%.
- ◆ **Military/Civilian Victims.** About 41% of the victims were active duty Army members, about 59% were civilians.

- ◆ **Military/Civilian Offenders.** About 67% of the offenders were active duty Army members, about 33% were civilians.
- ◆ **Frequencies and Rates.** The following trends were noted for case frequencies and rates:
 - ◆ The frequency (number) of cases decreased from slightly more than 7,000 cases in 1989 to about 6,000 cases in 1996.
 - ◆ The rate of total spouse abuse per 1,000 married persons varied between about 8 and 10.5 per 1,000 married persons.
 - ◆ When the rates of spouse abuse per 1,000 married persons were examined for female victims, the rates have been relatively steady between about 11 and 14 per 1,000 married persons. For the male victims, the rates have shown an increasing trend. There were slight decreases in the rates for both male and female victims in 1996.
 - ◆ The numbers and rates of subsequent incidents have also shown a steady increase from 1991 to 1996. The numbers and rates of re-opened cases have been very consistent during this period of time.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOR SUBSEQUENT INCIDENTS

There were 5,065 subsequent incidents (see Glossary) of spouse abuse. When the findings of the subsequent incidents were compared to the initial substantiated incidents, there were very few differences. Only those differences are reported here.

- ◆ **Referral Sources.** The percentage of victim self-referrals (14.7%) increased from initial substantiated cases (8.3%). Referrals from medical and dental professionals (16.1%) and command referrals (12.7%) decreased from initial substantiated cases (18.5% and 15.3% respectively).
- ◆ **Victim Sex.** The percentage of female victims increased from 67.0% to 71.9%.
- ◆ **Types of Maltreatment.** The type of maltreatment changed slightly in that there were more cases of major physical injury (3.9%) compared to 2.7% for initial substantiated cases, and fewer cases of minor physical injury (91.4%) compared to 94.1% for initial substantiated cases.
- ◆ **Ages of Victims and Offenders.** The percentages of victims and offenders in each age group were similar, but slight increases were seen between ages 18-26 and slight decreases for ages 27-51.

- ◆ **Race/Ethnicity of Victims and Offenders.** The percentage of white victims decreased from 40.4% to 34.5% and the percentage of black victims increased from 47.2% to 53.1%. Similarly, the percentage of white offenders decreased from 38.2% to 31.4% and the percentage of black offenders increased from 50.4% to 58.4%.
- ◆ **Victim and Offender Substance Involvement.** Alcohol involvement decreased for both victims (from 17.2% to 12.0%) and offenders (from 23.6% to 18.3%). Some of the decrease may be accounted for by an increase in the "Unknown" category. For victims, the percentage of incidents in which substance abuse was reported as "Unknown" increased from 17.6% for initial substantiated incidents to 20.9% for subsequent incidents. For offenders, the increase was from 18.4% to 23.4%.
- ◆ **Location of Incidents.** There was a slight increase in incidents occurring on-post (from 49.7% to 51.6%).
- ◆ **Military and Civil Actions Taken.** The military and civil actions taken after subsequent incidents showed the following changes:
 - ◆ Military Medical Services increased from 40.4% to 48.3%.
 - ◆ Military Family Services decreased from 72.2% to 67.7%.
 - ◆ Military Police Investigation increased from 30.9% to 33.9%.
 - ◆ Civil Police Investigation increased from 9.0% to 12.9%.
 - ◆ Civil Court Involvement increased from 5.6% to 8.0%.
 - ◆ Military Administrative Action increased from 4.4% to 9.6%.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOR RE-OPENED CASES

There were 3,493 re-opened cases (cases which had been previously treated and closed), 4.8% of total initial substantiated incidents. When the characteristics of re-opened cases were compared to the initial substantiated cases and the subsequent incidents, there were very few differences in the results. Only those differences are reported here.

- ◆ **Referral Sources.** The percentage of referrals from law enforcement increased to 55.5%, compared to subsequent incidences (46.0%) and initial substantiated cases (45.3%). referrals from command (11.0%) decreased from subsequent incidents (12.7%) and initial substantiated cases (15.3%).
- ◆ **Victim Sex.** The percentage of female victims for the re-opened cases was 75.5%, an increase over both the initial substantiated cases (67%) and the subsequent incidents (71.9%). The percentage of male victims (24.5%) decreased from initial substantiated cases (33%) and subsequent incidents (28.1%).
- ◆ **Offender Sex.** The percentage of male offenders for the re-opened cases was 75.5%, an increase over both the initial substantiated cases (67%) and the subsequent incidents

(71.9%). The percentage of female offenders (24.5%) decreased from initial substantiated cases (33%) and subsequent incidents (28.1%).

- ◆ **Treatment of Victims.** The percentage of outpatient treatment provided to spouse abuse victims was similar for the re-opened cases (25.3%), initial substantiated cases (23.5%), and the subsequent incidents (23.8%).
- ◆ **Ages of Victims.** The percentage of victims and offenders in the re-opened cases decreased in the age groups 15-21, but remained steady or slightly increased for all other age groups.
- ◆ **Race/Ethnicity of Victims.** The percentage of white victims decreased from re-opened cases (29.9%) compared to initial (40.4%) and subsequent incidents (34.5%) The percentage of black victims increased for re-opened cases (57.9%) compared to initial (47.2%) and subsequent incidents (53.1%).
- ◆ **Race/Ethnicity of Offenders.** The percentage of white offenders decreased for re-opened cases (26.9%) compared to initial (38.2%) and subsequent incidents (31.4%). The percentage of black offenders increased for re-opened cases (63.4%) compared to initial (50.4%) and subsequent incidents (58.4%).
- ◆ **Location of Incidents.** The percentage of incidents that occurred on-post (58.8%) increased from initial substantiated cases (49.7%) and subsequent incidents (51.6%).
- ◆ **Military and Civil Actions.** The military and civil actions taken after re-opened cases were generally similar to those found after the initial substantiated incidents except for:
 - ◆ Military Medical Service increased from 40.4% to 42.1%.
 - ◆ Military Family Services decreased from 72.2% to 70.3%.
 - ◆ Military Police Investigation increased from 30.9% to 36.5%.
 - ◆ Military Administrative Action increased from 4.4% to 7.9%.

CONCLUSIONS

Referral Sources. Law enforcement referrals continued to increase over the three types of cases, about 10.2% between initial and re-opened cases. Medical and dental referrals showed a 2.5% decrease in referrals. Command referrals decreased by about 4.3%. These data indicate that the military police are the primary sentinels for reporting re-opened cases.

Victim Sex. The percentage of female victims increased about 8.5% from initial substantiated cases to subsequent incidents and re-opened cases.

Types of Maltreatment. The percentages of major and minor physical injury did not drastically change between initial substantiated, subsequent incidents and re-opened cases. There was,

however, a slight increase in major physical injury and a decrease in minor physical injury and emotional abuse. This suggests an increasing seriousness with multiple abuse incidents.

Victim Substance Involvement. The differences between categories of victim substance involvement did not change much between the three types of reports. There was a slight reduction in alcohol involvement and a slight increase in "Unknown" victim involvement.

Treatment of Victims. The percentage of cases requiring medical outpatient treatment increased slightly, however, medical inpatient and social services remained fairly constant.

LIMITATIONS OF THE DATA

This report presents only those cases of spouse abuse victims who have been identified and reported to the ACR. It is not a complete assessment of the extent of spouse abuse within the Army. As with all large databases, such as the ACR, there are limitations. Therefore, the data may not be completely accurate. While all material sent by the field to the ACR is checked for accuracy, errors are made that cannot be checked centrally.

The ACR is an administrative data base that is victim-based and was not designed for research purposes. This poses limitations on the types of data that have been entered. Some of the data are based on clinical judgment rather than on objective criteria that would be used in research. We have no way of knowing the exact Army population in any given year. Population and case numbers can fluctuate over the course of a year. We are limited to using year-end data.

Year-to-year fluctuations in rates may be due to the inconsistent reporting of case information to the ACR and by population shifts. Given these conditions, the case frequencies and rates presented in this report are only estimates. It may help FAP personnel increase their knowledge of the abused spouse population it serves and identify possible changes that have occurred over time.

Spouse Abuse

U.S. Army Central Registry (1989 - 1996)

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of Report. This report contains analyses of the spouse abuse cases that have been recorded in the Army Central Registry (ACR) for the years 1989-1996. More analyses will be performed as other data (such as health, substance involvement, personnel, and law enforcement) become available for comparison with ACR data.

Types of Cases. Incidents of spouse abuse may come to the attention of military authorities from a variety of military and civil sources. When such incidents are reported, they are reviewed by a Case Review Committee (see Glossary) that functions under the supervision of the medical treatment facility commander for that installation. Incidents of spouse abuse may be categorized as initial substantiated cases, subsequent incidents and re-opened cases (see Glossary). Findings from these three types of cases are presented separately in this report.

Authority for and Maintenance of the Data Base. The ACR is a centralized, confidential data base maintained by the Family Advocacy Support Section, Customer Service Division/Patient Administration and Biostatistics Activity (PASBA), Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The purpose of the ACR is to assist in the early identification, verification, and retrieval of reported cases of spouse abuse and child abuse and neglect. The authority for this data base and for the Army Family Advocacy Program is Army Regulation 608-18, dated 1 September 1995. Information is reported on a Department of Defense form (DD Form 2486), Child/Spouse Abuse Incident Report, from each installation that maintains a family advocacy program. The DD Form 2486 is the sole source of data for the ACR. The Case Review Committee (CRC) chair submits a DD Form 2486 for every report of spouse abuse and child abuse and neglect. A DD Form 2486 is also submitted in other circumstances, such as when a family transfers from one post to another. Data provided on the DD Form 2486 are carefully examined for errors and cross-checked with other sources of data for validity at the ACR. When necessary, those who submit the data from the field are asked to make corrections to insure that the data are correct.

The analyses in this report utilized data from the ACR FY 1989-1996. This report differs from the spouse abuse report, *Analyses of Reports of Spouse Abuse from the U.S. Army Central Registry (1975-1995)*, which utilized data from FY75-FY95. The reader should note this difference in reporting and is advised against crude comparisons of the reports. There are differences in the sections regarding spouse abuse referrals. For the 1975-1995 report, the category "Other" contained only those cases in which the "Other" box was exclusively checked. For this report, however, the "Other" category includes all referrals, except those highlighted in the report. For example, in addition to the "Other" category, as described above, referrals from Neighbor/Friend/Relative, Chaplain and Clergy are also included in this total in order to give a

complete assessment of referral sources. Another difference between this report and the 1975-1995 spouse abuse report is in our reporting mechanisms. In the previous report, family services (military) and social services (civil) were combined and compared in numerous ways. While they are similar in nature, they are kept separate in this report.

Major Types of Data Collected. The DD Form 2486 includes, but is not limited to, the type of maltreatment, the source of case referral, the demographic characteristics of the victim and offender, substance involvement of the victim and offender, location of victim residence (on or off post) and where the incident occurred. The offender's history of violence, and the military and civil actions that occur as a result of the case are also recorded.

INITIAL SUBSTANTIATED INCIDENTS

The following description of the rates of spouse abuse for 1989-1996 is based on analyses of cases from the Army Central Registry (ACR). When rates per 1,000 are calculated, denominator (population) data were obtained from the ASM Corporation Family Data Base. This data base is contracted by CFSC using raw data from the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and the Army Enlisted and Officer Master Files. There were 56,287 initial substantiated cases of spouse abuse (see Glossary) for the Army in the ACR from 1989-1996, an average of about 7,000 new cases per year. During this period, the rates of spouse abuse per year for initial substantiated cases have been between 7.9 and 10.2 per 1,000 married persons.

Sources of Referral to Family Advocacy. Cases were referred to family advocacy from a variety of sources, both military and civil (see Table 1). About 80% were from law enforcement, medical or dental sources, and command.

Table 1. Source of Spouse Abuse Referrals

<u>Source of Referral</u>	<u>Number of Reports of Initial Substantiated Cases by Referral Source</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Initial Substantiated Referrals</u>
Law enforcement	25,380	45.3
Medical and dental	10,358	18.5
Command	8,599	15.3
Other	4,800	8.6
Self (victim)	4,653	8.3
Self (offender)	2,257	4.0

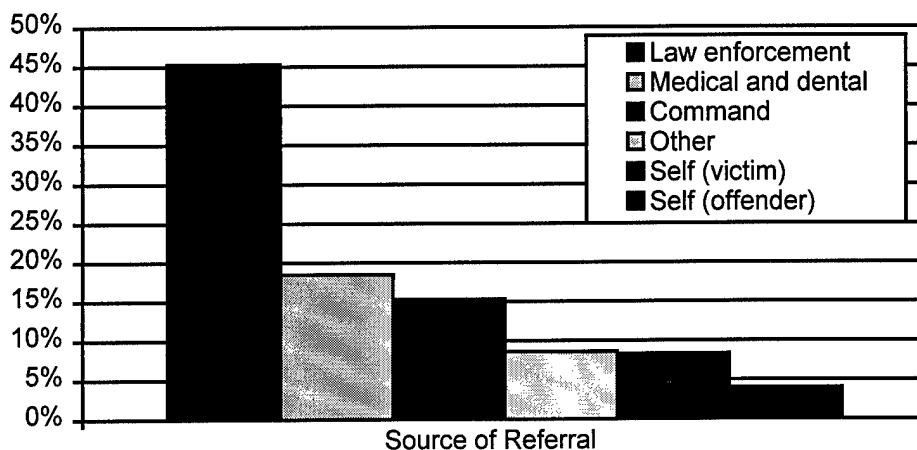


Figure 1. Spouse Abuse Referrals (by percentage).

Fatalities. There were 39 spouse abuse fatalities: 28 were female (71.8%) and 11 were male (28.2%).

Types of Maltreatment. Initial maltreatment reports were of three different types: major physical injury, minor physical injury, and emotional maltreatment. Each victim of maltreatment could be counted in more than one category. For example, a victim could experience both minor physical injury and emotional abuse during one incident. Therefore, when each type of maltreatment was counted as a single event, the total number of maltreatments was 59,087, which is greater than the number of victims, 56,287. Percentages were calculated using the total number of victims, not the total number of incidents (see Table 2).

Table 2. Types of Spouse Maltreatment Cases

<u>Type of Maltreatment</u>	<u>Number of Reports</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Initial Substantiated Cases*</u>
Major physical abuse	1,495	2.7
Minor physical abuse	52,939	94.1
Emotional maltreatment	4,653	8.3

*The total of these percentages adds to more than 100% because each type of maltreatment is compared to the number of initial substantiated cases of spouse abuse, not the total number of incidents of each type of maltreatment. For example, the 1,495 cases of major physical abuse represent 2.7% of all the spouse abuse victims (56,287). Since a victim could have more than one type of abuse, the proportion of cases with each type of abuse appeared to be a more reasonable figure to report than the type of abuse as a percentage of the total number of abuse incidents.

Victim Age. The age group of 22 to 26 years included the largest percentage of victims (40.2%). About 94% of all spouse victims were between the ages of 18 and 36 (see Table 3 and Figure 2).

Table 3. Ages of Spouse Abuse Victims

<u>Victim Age Group</u>	<u>Number of Victims</u>	<u>Percentage of Total</u>
15-17	384	0.7
18-21	11,216	20.6
22-26	21,915	40.2
27-31	12,089	22.2
32-36	5,925	10.9
37-41	2,234	4.1
42-46	603	1.1
47-51	118	0.2
52-65	40	0.1

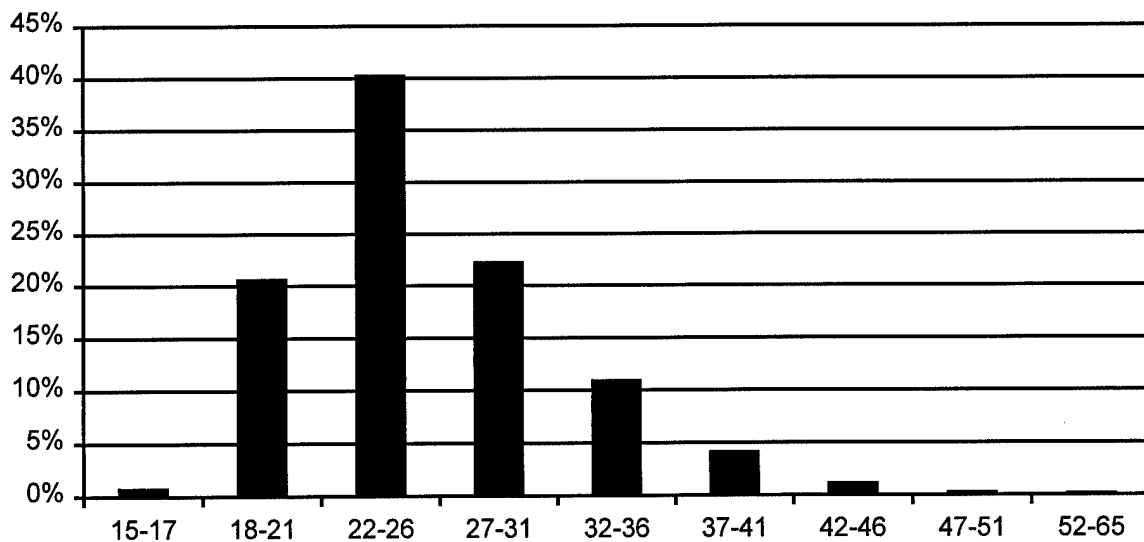


Figure 2. Age Groups of Spouse Abuse Victims (by percentage).

Victim Race/Ethnicity. Victim race was recorded in five categories (see Table 4). Blacks were the most prevalent category, representing approximately 47% of the victims. Racial and ethnic data are hard to obtain on Army family members, but since families generally mirror the race of the sponsor, the percentage of each racial group of married soldiers may be used as an estimate of the percentage of family members of the same ethnic background. Using this analogy, whites were under-represented compared to their numbers in the married Army (approximately 60.3% in 1996). Blacks (27.5%), Hispanics (5.8%) and Asian/Pacific Islanders (2.1%) were relatively over-represented compared to their representation in the married Army. The category of American Indians and Alaskan natives was about the same as the percentage in the married Army (0.6%).

Table 4. Race/Ethnicity of Spouse Abuse Victims

<u>Victim Race</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>	<u>Percentage of Total</u>	<u>Percentage of Each Racial Group in married Army</u>
White	22,424	40.4	60.3%
Black	26,188	47.2	27.5%
Hispanic	4,594	8.3	5.8%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1,916	3.5	2.1%
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	323	0.6	0.6%

Victim Sex. For all types of abuse, there were more female victims (67%) than male victims (33.0%).

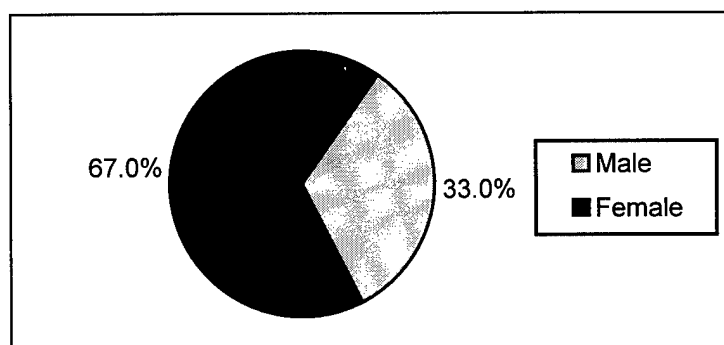


Figure 3. Percentage of Male and Female Spouse Abuse Victims.

Victim Sex by Type of Abuse 1989-1996.

- ◆ For female victims, there were 1,015 cases of major physical injury, 34,192 cases of minor physical abuse, and 3,114 cases of emotional abuse.

- ◆ For male victims there were 439 cases of major physical injury, 17,111 cases of minor physical injury and 1,383 cases of emotional abuse

Victim Age Group by Type of Abuse for 1989-1996. In the following section, each type of maltreatment is presented separately. Maltreatment is first plotted by age group. The second graph for each type of maltreatment divides the age groups by sex. It is important to note that these are percentage figures and **not** rates per 1,000

Major Physical Injury. The frequencies of major physical injury victims by age group are shown in Figure 4a. The highest frequency of victims is in the age group 22-26.

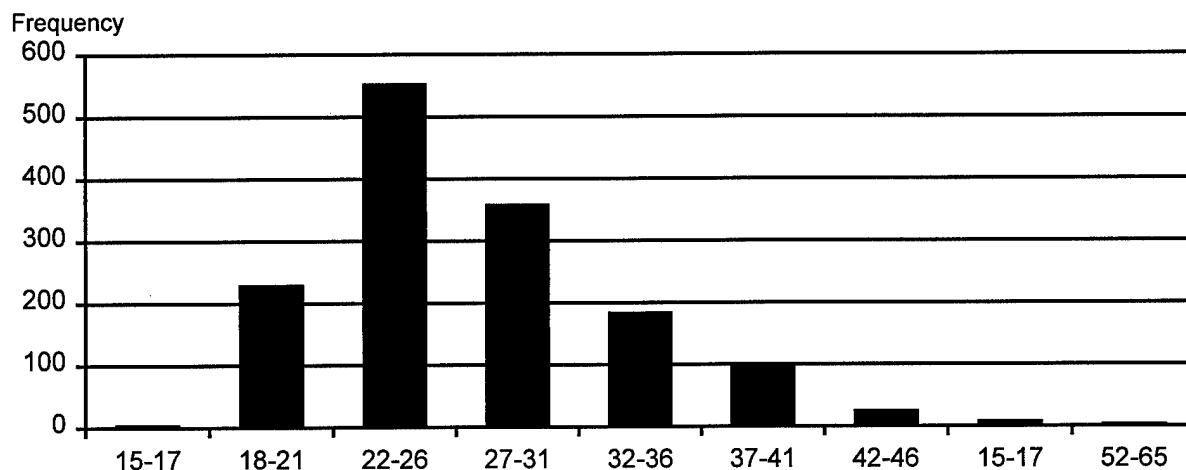


Figure 4a. Percent of Major Physical Injury by Age Group, 1989-1996.

When male and female victims are counted separately, (Figure 4b) female victims outnumber male victims for all age groups. The greatest number of cases were in between the ages of 22-26.

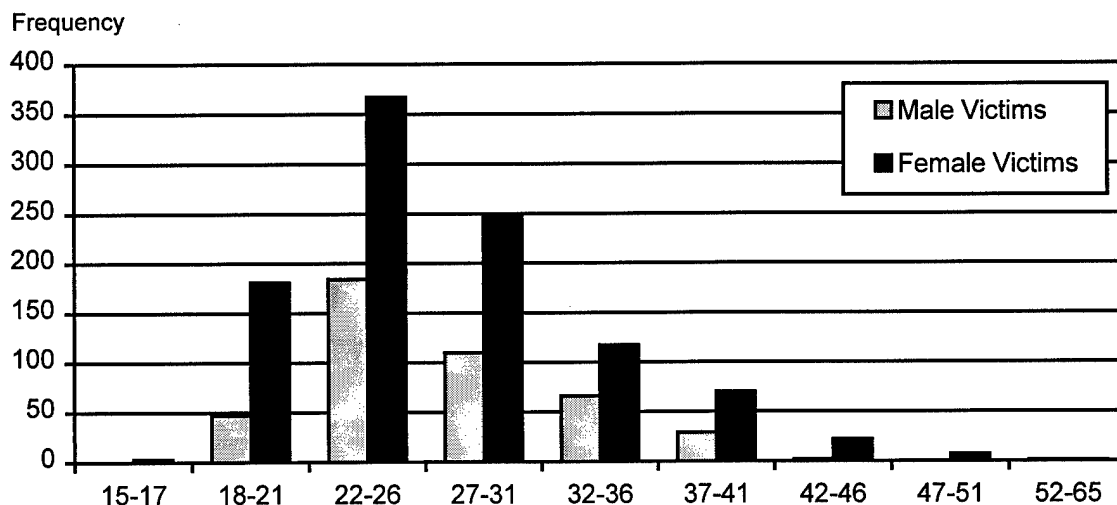


Figure 4b. Percent of Major Physical Injury by Age Group and Sex, 1989-1996.

Minor Physical Injury. The frequencies of minor physical injury cases by age group are shown in Figure 5a. The highest frequency of cases was in age group 22-26.

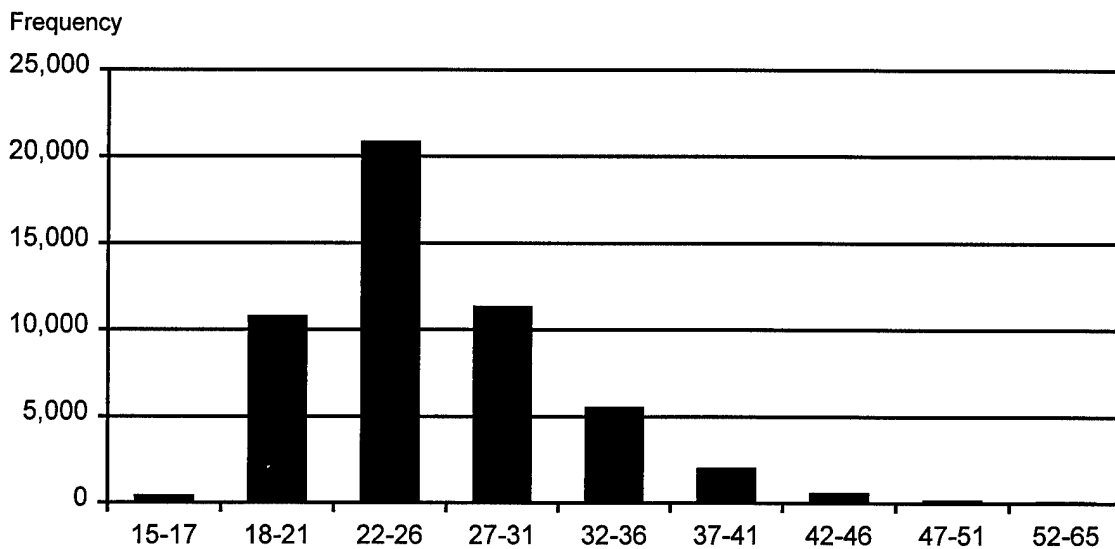


Figure 5a. Percent of Minor Physical Injury by Age Group, 1989-1996.

When the frequencies of minor physical injury are examined by age and sex, the number of female victims is greater than the number of male victims for all groups. The difference remains roughly a 2:1 ratio (Figure 5b).

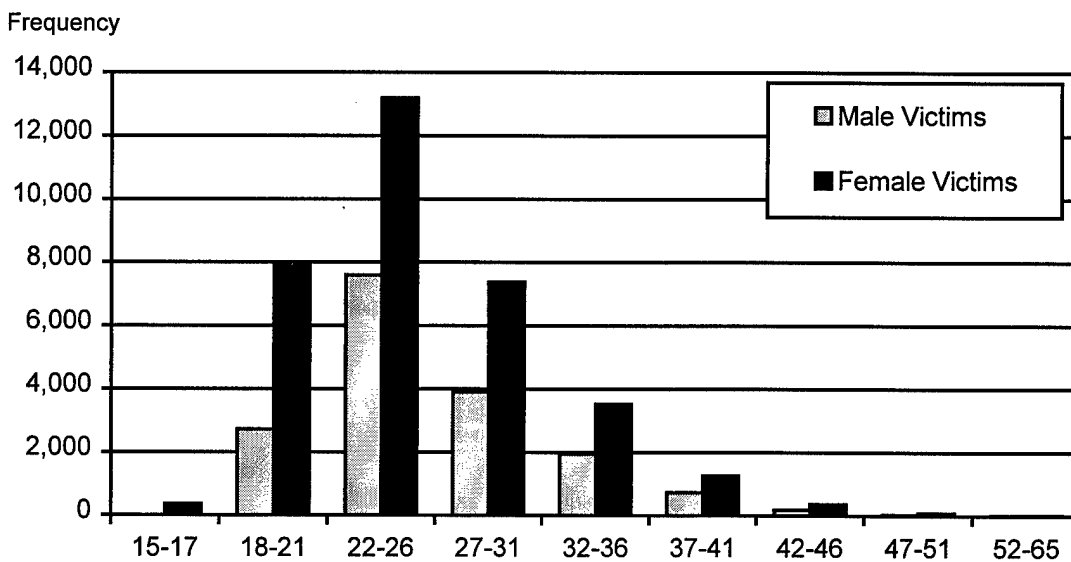


Figure 5b. Percent of Minor Physical Injury by Age Group and Sex, 1989-1996.

Emotional Maltreatment. The frequencies of emotional abuse cases are shown in Figure 6a. The highest frequency of cases was in age group 22-26.

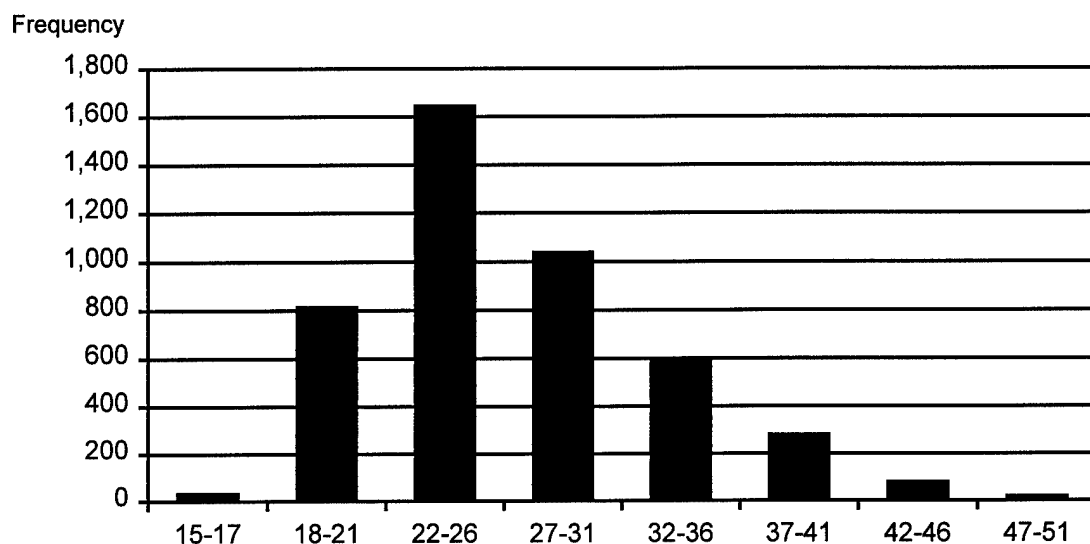


Figure 6a. Percent of Emotional Maltreatment Cases by Age Group, 1989-1996.

Male and female emotional abuse cases are shown separately by sex in Figure 6b. Emotional abuse for women and men is greatest for the age group 22-26. It decreases steadily for both men and women after age 26.

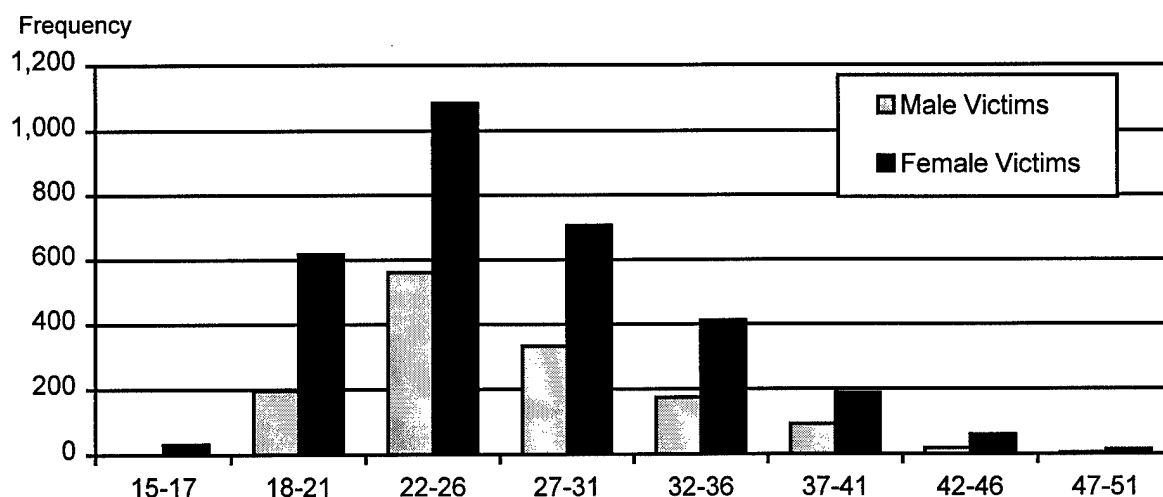


Figure 6b. Percent of Emotional Maltreatment Cases by Age Group and Sex, 1989-1996.

Residence of Victim and Location of Incident. The number of victims whose residence was on-post was 49.7% compared to 50.3% who resided off-post. (The location of the incidents was similar to the location of victim residence, 49.5% on-post and 50.3% off-post.)

Treatment of Victims. The major type of treatment provided was social services (about 91%). Approximately 23.5% of the victims required outpatient medical treatment and 1.3% required inpatient treatment (See Table 5).

Table 5. Types of Treatment Provided to Spouse Abuse Victims

<u>Type of Treatment</u>	<u>Number of Victims Receiving Treatment</u>	<u>Percentage of Initial Substantiated Cases*</u>
Social services	51,207	91.0
Medical outpatient	13,233	23.5
Medical inpatient	747	1.3

*The total of these percentages adds to more than 100% because each type of treatment is compared to the total number of initial substantiated cases, not the total number of treatments received. For example, the 51,207 instances of social services treatment cases represent 91.0% of the total number of spouse abuse victims (56,287).

Victim Substance Involvement. Victim substance involvement was recorded in about 18% of the cases. The substance that was most frequently associated with spouse abuse victims was alcohol (see Table 6), 17.2%. When this number is combined with the number of victims for which alcohol involvement was recorded as "Unknown", the percentage could be as high as about 35%. "No involvement" was reported in about 65% of the victim cases.

Table 6. Spouse Abuse Victim Substance Involvement

<u>Victims Substance Involvement</u>	<u>Number of Initial Substantiated Cases</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Initial Substantiated Cases</u>
Alcohol	9,569	17.2
Drugs	118	0.2
Alcohol and drugs	139	0.2
Unknown	9,815	17.6
No involvement	36,145	64.8

Offender Age. Approximately 94% of the offenders were between the ages of 18-36. Only 0.4% were below age 18 and 6% were above age 36 (see Table 7).

Table 7. Age Distribution of Spouse Abuse Offenders

<u>Offender Age Group</u>	<u>Number of Offenders</u>	<u>Percentage of Total</u>
15-17	202	0.4
18-21	9,752	17.9
22-26	22,410	41.2
27-31	12,371	22.8
32-36	6,308	11.6
37-41	2,510	4.6
42-46	615	1.1
47-51	139	0.3
52-65	46	0.1

The age distributions of spouse abuse victims and offenders are compared in Figure 7. These distributions are quite similar although the victims outnumber the offenders at age groups 15-17 and 18-21.

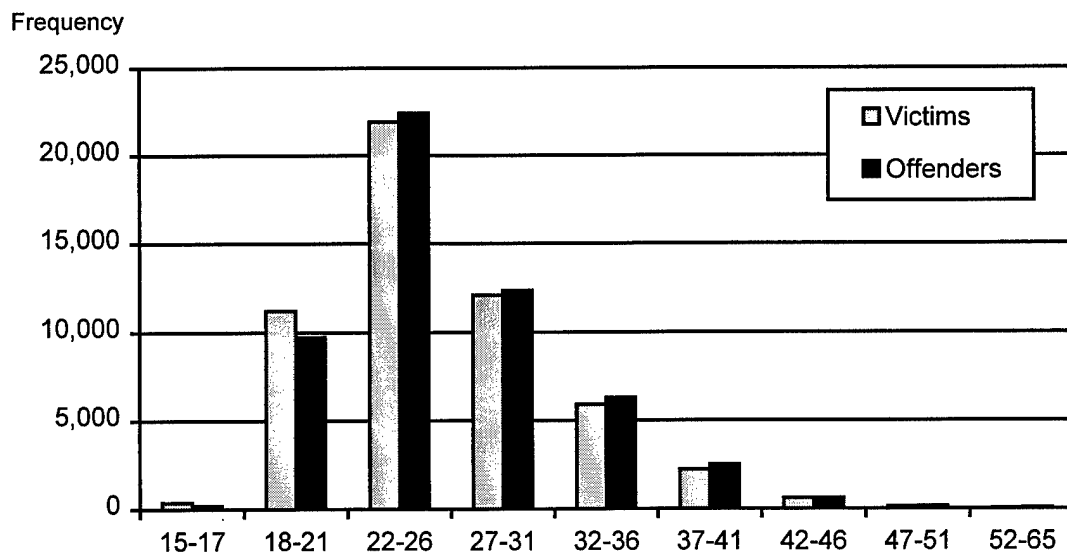


Figure 7. Age Distributions of Spouse Abuse Victims and Offenders, 1989-1996.

Offender Sex. The majority of the offenders were male (67%) compared to 33% female.

Offender Race/Ethnicity. The race of the offenders is presented in Table 8. The distribution is similar to that of the spouse abuse victims, reported in Table 4.

Table 8. Race/Ethnicity of Spouse Abuse Offenders

<u>Offender Race</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>	<u>Percentage of Total</u>
White	21,145	38.2
Black	27,869	50.4
Hispanic	4,542	8.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	1,456	2.6
American Indian/Alaskan Native	323	0.6

Offender Substance Involvement. Substance use by the offender was reported in about 24.3% of the cases. As Table 9 shows, the substance most frequently associated with spouse abuse offenders was alcohol (23.6%). When the number of offenders involved with alcohol is combined with the number of offenders with a substance involvement recorded as "Unknown", the percentage of substance involvement could be as high as 42%. "No involvement" was reported in 57.4% of the cases.

Table 9. Spouse Abuse Offender Substance Involvement

<u>Offender Substance Involvement</u>	<u>Number of Initial Substantiated Cases</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Initial Substantiated Cases</u>
Alcohol	12,883	23.6
Drugs	155	0.3
Alcohol and drugs	196	0.4
Unknown	10,038	18.4
No involvement	31,336	57.4

Offender History of Violence and Abuse. There were seven categories in which prior history of violence and abuse was recorded (see Table 10). Some history of violence or abuse by or to the offender was obtained in 15.6% of the cases.

Table 10. Offender History of Violence and Abuse

<u>Category of Violence History and Abuse</u>	<u>Number of Offenders Reporting</u>	<u>Percentage of All Reports*</u>
Previously referred to alcohol rehabilitation program	4,078	7.2
Previously referred to drug rehabilitation program	231	0.4
Involvement in previously established case of child abuse	1,587	2.8
Involvement in previously established case of spouse abuse	4,859	8.6
Offender previously abused as child	2,377	4.2
Previous abuse history unknown	12,875	22.9
No previous record of abuse	33,684	59.8

*The total of these percentages adds to more than 100% because each type of history is compared to the total number of offenders (56,287), not the total number of incidents of past violence and abuse (59,691). For example, the 4,078 cases of previously being referred to an alcohol rehabilitation program represents 7.2% of the total number of offenders (56,287).

Military and Civil Actions Following Incidents of Spouse Abuse. Both military and civil consequences were reported for the spouse abuse incidents. Table 11 provides the summary of military and civil actions. (Military administrative action has no corresponding category in the civilian community.) While family services and social services may be similar in nature, they are kept separate for this report. The reader should note, however, that they were combined for the *Analyses of Reports of Spouse Abuse from the U.S. Army Central Registry (1975-1995)*.

Table 11. Military and Civil Actions Following Spouse Abuse Cases

<u>Action Involved</u>	<u>Number of Military Actions</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Military and Civil Actions*</u>	<u>Number of Civil Actions</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Military and Civil Actions*</u>
Medical	22,762	40.4	743	1.3
Family Services	40,614	72.2	NA	NA
Social Services	NA	NA	2,296	4.1
Police Investigation	17,405	30.9	5,062	9.0

Table 11. Military and Civil Actions Following Spouse Abuse Cases (cont'd.)

<u>Action Involved</u>	<u>Number of Military Actions</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Military and Civil Actions*</u>	<u>Number of Civil Actions</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Military and Civil Actions*</u>
Court Involvement	913	1.6	3,160	5.6
Military Administrative Action	2,469	4.4	NA	NA

*Percentages add to more than 100% because each case could have more than one action. Each action is compared to the total number of spouse abuse cases, 56,287.

FREQUENCIES AND RATES OF ABUSE

The following analyses include all married persons: refers to all active duty Army personnel, their civilian spouses, and dual military married couples.

Population of U.S. Army Spouses (married persons), 1989-1996. Figure 8 shows the population of Army married persons from 1989 to 1996. This population has decreased 31% from 1991 to 1996 as a result of the overall decline of the soldier population.

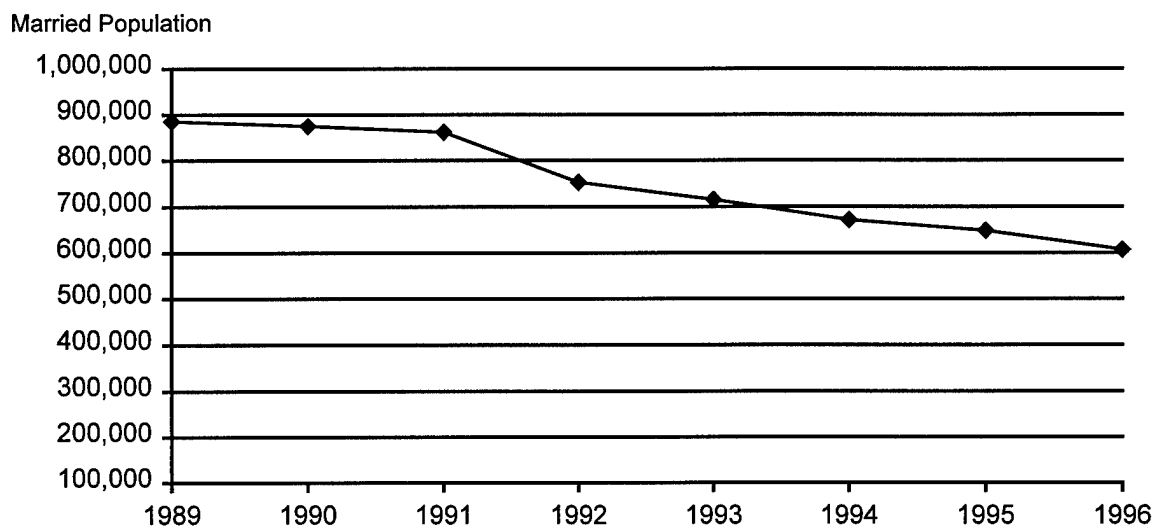


Figure 8. Married Army Population by Year (Soldiers and Spouses).

Frequencies of U.S. Army Spouse Abuse Cases, 1989-1996. The number of cases of spouse abuse in the U.S. Army, as reported in the ACR database from 1989 to 1996, is shown in Figure 9. The fluctuations in numbers of cases between 1990 and 1993 are presumably due to the deployment of U.S. Army troops for Operation Desert Storm in 1990-1991 and its aftermath.

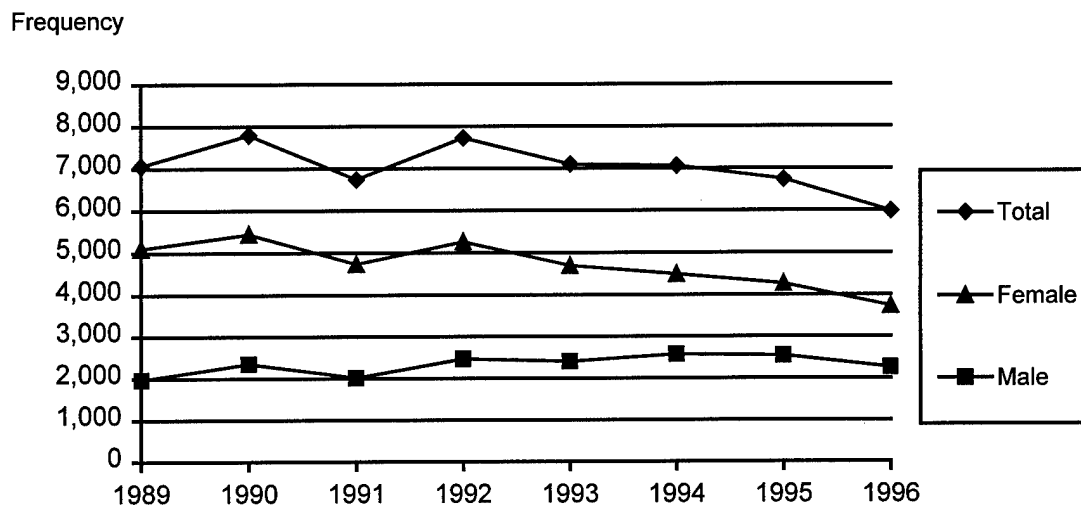


Figure 9. Frequency of Army Spouse Abuse Cases by Year.

Rates of Initial Substantiated Cases of Spouse Abuse in the U.S. Army, 1989-1996. Figure 10 shows the rates of spouse abuse per year per 1,000 Army married persons from 1989 to 1996.

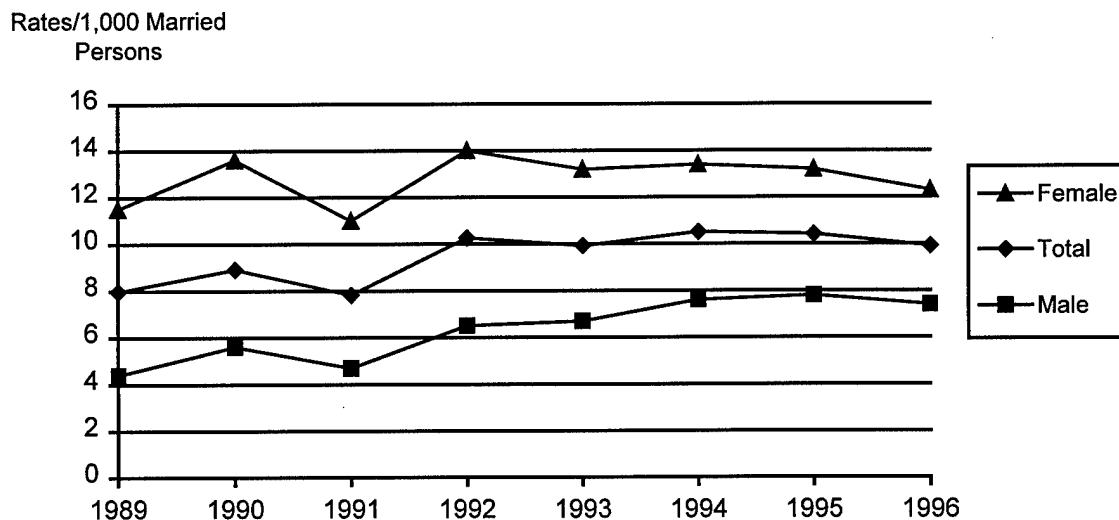


Figure 10. Army Spouse Abuse Rates per 1,000 Married Persons.

SUBSEQUENT INCIDENTS

There were 5,065 subsequent incidents of spouse abuse (9.0% of total initial substantiated cases). When the findings of the subsequent incidents of spouse abuse were compared to the initial substantiated cases of spouse abuse, there were very few differences. Those differences are as follows. (A complete listing of data differences for initial substantiated, subsequent incidents, and re-opened cases is presented in the Appendix.)

- ◆ The percentage of self-referrals from the victim (14.7%) increased from initial substantiated cases (8.3%). Referrals from medical and dental professionals (16.1%) and command referrals (12.7%) decreased from initial substantiated cases (18.5% and 15.3% respectively).
- ◆ The type of maltreatment changed slightly in that there were more cases of major physical injury (3.9%) compared to 2.7% for initial substantiated cases, and fewer cases of minor physical injury (91.4%) compared to 94.1% for initial substantiated cases.
- ◆ The percentage of victims and offenders were similar with slight increases for ages 18-26 and slight decreases for ages 27-51.
- ◆ The percentage of female victims increased from 67% to 71.9%.
- ◆ The percentage of white victims decreased from 40.4% to 34.5% and the percentage of black victims increased from 47.2% to 53.1%. Similarly, the percentage of white offenders decreased from 38.2% to 31.4% and the percentage of black offenders increased from 50.4% to 58.4%.
- ◆ Alcohol involvement decreased for both victims (from 17.2% to 12%) and offenders (from 23.6% to 18.3%). Some of the decrease may be accounted for by an increase in the "Unknown" category. For victims, the percentage of incidents in which substance abuse was reported as "Unknown" increased from 17.6% for initial substantiated incidents to 20.9% for subsequent incidents. For offenders, the increase was from 18.4% to 23.4%.
- ◆ There was a slight increase in incidents occurring on-post (from 49.7% to 51.6%).
- ◆ The military and civil actions taken after subsequent incidents showed the following changes:
 - ◆ Military Medical Services increased from 40.4% to 48.3%.
 - ◆ Military Family Services decreased from 72.2% to 67.7%.
 - ◆ Military Police Investigation increased from 30.9% to 33.9%.
 - ◆ Civil Police Investigation increased from 9.0% to 12.9%.
 - ◆ Civil Court Involvement increased from 5.6% to 8.0%.
 - ◆ Military Administrative Action increased from 4.4% to 9.6%.

RE-OPENED CASES

There were 3,493 re-opened cases (6.2% of total initial substantiated cases). The following differences were found for the re-opened cases compared to initial substantiated cases and subsequent incidents:

- ◆ The percentage of referrals from law enforcement increased to 55.5%, compared to subsequent incidences (46.0%) and initial substantiated cases (45.3%). Referrals from command (11%) decreased from subsequent incidents (12.7%) and initial substantiated cases (15.3%).
- ◆ The percentage of victims and offenders in the re-opened cases decreased in the age groups 15-21 and remained steady or slightly increased for all other age groups.
- ◆ The percentage of male offenders for the re-opened cases was 75.5%, an increase over both the initial substantiated cases (67%) and the subsequent incidents (71.9%). The percentage of female offenders (24.5%) decreased from initial substantiated cases (33%) and subsequent incidents (28.1%).
- ◆ The percentage of white victims decreased from re-opened cases (29.9%) compared to initial (40.4%) and subsequent incidents (34.5%). The percentage of black victims increased for re-opened cases (57.9%) compared to initial (47.2%) and subsequent incidents (53.1%).
- ◆ The percentage of white offenders decreased for re-opened cases (26.9%) compared to initial (38.2%) and subsequent incidents (31.4%). The percentage of black offenders increased for re-opened cases (63.4%) compared to initial (50.4%) and subsequent incidents (58.4%).
- ◆ The percentage of outpatient treatment provided to spouse abuse victims increased slightly for the re-opened cases (25.3%) compared to the initial substantiated cases (23.5%) and the subsequent incidents (23.8%).
- ◆ The percentage of incidents that occurred on-post (58.8%) increased from initial substantiated cases (49.7%) and subsequent incidents (51.6%).
- ◆ The military and civil actions taken after re-opened cases was generally similar to those found after the initial substantiated incidents except for:
 - ◆ Military Medical Service increased from 40.4% to 42.1%.
 - ◆ Military Family Services decreased from 72.2% to 70.3%.
 - ◆ Military Police Investigation increased from 30.9% to 36.5%.
 - ◆ Military Administrative Action increased from 4.4% to 7.9%.

PERCENTAGE OF RECIDIVIST CASES COMPARED TO INITIAL CASES

The proportion of subsequent incidents compared to the number of initial substantiated incidents has increased from 1989 to 1996 (See Figure 11) while the proportion of re-opened cases has remained relatively steady. The reasons for this are unknown, but may have implications for case identification, treatment and especially, prevention.

Percentage of Initial
Sustantiated Cases

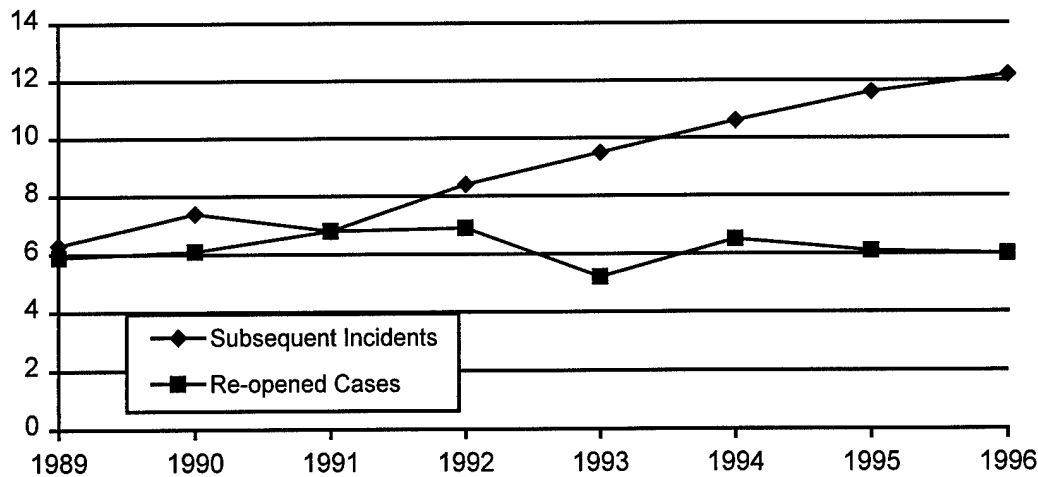


Figure 11. Subsequent Incidents and Re-opened Cases per Year
(percentage of Initial Substantiated Incidents).

LIMITATIONS OF THE DATA

This report represents only those cases of spouse abuse that have been identified and reported to the ACR. It is not a complete assessment of the extent of spouse abuse within the Army. As with all large databases, such as the ACR, there are limitations. For example, incomplete reports may be sent to the ACR when some of the required information is not available.

The registry has been an evolving system since it was first instituted in 1975. The reporting requirements and the electronic and human support have improved during this period. It was only in 1989 that the registry obtained its own data entry and quality control system to check the accuracy of case information and data coding. Data are now carefully examined by the ACR staff for errors and, when necessary, additional information is requested from the field to help insure that the data are correct. In spite of the careful checks performed by the staff of the ACR, errors still occur and often cannot be explained or, in some cases, even discovered.

The ACR is an administrative data base, victim-based, and was not designed for research purposes. This poses limitations on the types of data that have been entered. Regardless of the amount of checking that can be done, the accuracy of the data in the ACR depends not only on careful coding, but also on the consistency of the decisions made in the field by clinicians and CRCs. The extent of these differences has not been documented, but it increases the variability in the types of cases entered into the registry. This variability cannot be currently measured by the data in the ACR.

We also have no way of knowing the exact Army population in any given year. Populations can also fluctuate over the course of a year. We are limited to using the data obtained at the end of the year.

Year to year fluctuations in rates may be due to the inconsistent reporting of case information to the ACR and by population shifts. Given these conditions, the case frequencies and rates presented in this report are only provided as estimates. It may help FAP personnel increase their knowledge of the abused spouse population it serves and identify possible changes that have occurred over time.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

From 1989 to 1996, there were 56,287 initial substantiated cases of spouse abuse, or an average of about 7,000 cases per year of all types of spouse abuse. Subsequent incidents comprised about 9.0% of the initial substantiated cases; the proportion of re-opened cases was about 6% of the initial substantiated cases.

Rates of spouse abuse have remained fairly steady since 1992. Females have had an average rate of about 13.0 / 1,000 married females and males have had an average rate of about 7.5 / 1,000 married males. Overall, there has been an average rate of about 10.0 / 1,000 married Army spouses.

Referrals from law enforcement, medical and dental professionals, and the command made up about 80% of the total referrals from FY 1989 to 1996.

Minor physical injury was the type of maltreatment that affected the majority of the spouse abuse victims (about 94%). Social services was the most common type of treatment provided to spouse abuse victims (about 91.5%).

There was a large difference in the sex of the offenders. Females made up 67% of the initial substantiated cases, about 72% of the subsequent incidents, and 75.5% of the re-opened cases.

G L O S S A R Y

AR 608-18, The Army Family Advocacy Program, implements the FAP. For the majority of the time covered by this report, the AR in force was dated 18 September 1987. As of 1 September 1995, a new AR 608-18 was issued to the field. Most of the definitions in this glossary are based on the 1995 regulation since it is being used in the field today. Where it will be helpful, definitions from the 1987 regulation are provided.

Case Review Committee (CRC) - A multidisciplinary team supervised by the medical treatment facility (MTF) commander. The chair of the CRC is ordinarily the Chief of the Social Work Service. The purpose of the CRC is to coordinate the medical, legal, and other forms of intervention and determine whether an incident is substantiated and becomes a treatment case or is not substantiated and receives no further official follow-up. This coordination is normally done by the Social Work Service of the MTF. The CRC is not a public meeting and membership is limited to those prescribed in the regulation. Members must have supervisory or functional responsibility for some aspect of prevention, reporting, identification, investigation, diagnosis, or treatment of child and spouse abuse.

Closed Case - If there is no incident within a year's time, the case is normally closed.

Emotional Spouse Abuse -

In 1987, emotional spouse abuse was defined as follows:

"Spouse emotional maltreatment is conduct which, although not criminal, is so offensive to the victimized spouse that a reasonable person would find such conduct abhorrent within a marital relationship."

In 1995, emotional spouse abuse was defined as follows:

AR 608-18, 1995, gives a general definition with two sub-categories: psychological violence toward the spouse and property violence. Because of the complexity of these definitions, they are repeated here. Emotional spouse abuse is "A pattern of acts or omissions, such as violent acts that may not cause observable injury, that adversely affect the psychological well-being of the victim. Arguments alone are not sufficient to substantiate emotional maltreatment."

- (1) "Psychological violence is a pattern of behavior involving one or more of the following behaviors: explicit or implicit threats of violence, extremely controlling types of behavior, extreme jealousy, mental degradation (name calling, etc.), and isolating behavior."
- (2) "Property violence by one spouse may constitute emotional abuse if intended as a means to intimidate the other spouse. Property violence includes, but is not limited to, damaging or destroying the other spouse's property, hitting/kicking a door or a wall, throwing food, breaking dishes, and intentionally or recklessly damaging automobiles. Threatening injury to or injuring pets is included in this category."

Initial Substantiated Case - A case that has been fully investigated and for which the preponderance of the available information indicates that abuse occurred.

Physical Spouse Abuse -

In 1987, major and minor were defined as follows:

Major physical injury. Major physical injury (for child and spouse abuse) listed a number of physical injuries any one of which “constitutes a substantial risk to the life or well-being of the individual.”

Minor physical injury. This category included a number of minor injuries such as twisting or shaking and others “which do not constitute a substantial risk to the life or well-being of the individual.”

In 1995, physical spouse abuse was defined in two ways:

- (1) “The use of physical force that caused physical injury to the spouse. Violence generally used to intimidate, control, or force the spouse to do something against his or her will. This may include grabbing, pushing, holding, slapping, choking, punching, sitting or standing on, kicking, hitting with objects, and assaulting with knives, firearms or other weapons.”
- (2) “The forcing of one spouse by the other spouse to engage in any sexual activity through the use of physical violence, intimidation, or the explicit or implicit threat of future violence.”

Also in the 1995 regulation, spouse abuse assessment guidelines were provided for mild, moderate, and severe spouse abuse. However, at the time of this writing, the Department of Defense had not approved the DD form 2486 which reflected these changes. Thus the field was left with the categories used in the 1987 regulation.

Re-opened Case - Another substantiated incident of abuse occurs after the case has been closed.

Subsequent Incident - A substantiated incident of spouse abuse that occurs while the case, based on the initial substantiated incident, is still open.

APPENDIX

This Appendix contains tables of comparisons of the most important variables between initial substantiated cases, subsequent cases, and re-opened cases. The data are based on Army cases from 1989-1996.

Table 1. Source of Spouse Abuse Referrals

Source of Referral	Initial Substantiated Cases	Subsequent Incidents	Re-opened Cases
Law enforcement	45.3%	46.0%	55.5%
Medical and dental	18.5%	16.1%	16.0%
Command	15.3%	12.7%	11.0%
Self-referral (victim)	8.3%	14.7%	7.7%
Self-referral (offender)	4.0%	3.9%	3.0%
Other	8.6%	6.5%	6.8%

Table 2. Type of Maltreatment

Type of Maltreatment	Initial Substantiated Cases*	Subsequent Incidents*	Re-opened Cases*
Major physical injury	2.7%	3.9%	3.8%
Minor physical injury	94.1%	91.4%	93.6%
Emotional maltreatment	8.3%	7.7%	7.8%
Fatalities	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%

*Percentages add to more than 100% because the number of incidents is compared to the total number of spouse abuse cases in each category and not the number of different abuse incidents.

Table 3. Age of Spouse Abuse Victims

Age Group	Initial Substantiated Cases	Subsequent Incidents	Re-opened Cases
15-17	0.7%	0.6%	0.1%
18-21	20.6%	22.9%	13.8%
22-26	40.2%	42.7%	42.9%
27-31	22.2%	20.8%	24.9%
32-36	10.9%	9.2%	12.3%
37-41	4.1%	2.9%	4.8%
42-46	1.1%	0.7%	0.9%
47-51	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%
52-65	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%

Table 4. Race of Spouse Abuse Victims

Race of Victim	Initial Substantiated Cases	Subsequent Incidents	Re-opened Cases
White	40.4%	34.5%	29.9%
Black	47.2%	53.1%	57.9%
Hispanic	8.3%	7.9%	8.2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3.5%	3.8%	3.5%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.6%	0.8%	0.5%

Table 5. Sex of Spouse Abuse Victims

Sex of Victim	Initial Substantiated Cases	Subsequent Incidents	Re-opened Cases
Males	33.0%	28.1%	24.5%
Females	67.0%	71.9%	75.5%

Table 6. Substance Involvement of Spouse Abuse Victims

Substance Involvement	Initial Substantiated Cases	Subsequent Incidents	Re-opened Cases
Alcohol	17.2%	12.0%	14.5%
Drugs	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Alcohol and drugs	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Unknown	17.6%	20.9%	19.4%
No involvement	64.8%	66.8%	65.7%

Table 7. Type of Treatment Provided to Spouse Abuse Victims

Type of Treatment	Initial Substantiated Cases	Subsequent Incidents	Re-opened Cases
Social services	91.0%	91.9%	91.6%
Medical outpatient	23.5%	23.8%	25.3%
Medical inpatient	1.3%	2.0%	1.8%

Table 8. Age of Spouse Abuse Offenders

Age Group	Initial Substantiated Cases	Subsequent Incidents	Re-opened Cases
15-17	0.4%	0.2%	0.1%
18-21	17.9%	19.2%	10.0%
22-26	41.2%	44.8%	43.6%
27-31	22.8%	22.1%	26.7%
32-36	11.6%	9.7%	12.8%
37-41	4.6%	3.7%	5.5%
42-46	1.1%	0.7%	1.1%
47-51	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%
52-65	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%

Table 9. Race of Spouse Abuse Offenders

Race of Victim	Initial Substantiated Cases	Subsequent Incidents	Re-opened Cases
White	38.2%	31.4%	26.9%
Black	50.4%	58.4%	63.4%
Hispanic	8.2%	7.1%	6.7%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.6%	2.4%	2.5%
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	0.6%	0.7%	0.5%

Table 10. Sex of Spouse Abuse Offenders

Sex of Offender	Initial Substantiated Cases	Subsequent Incidents	Re-opened Cases
Males	67.0%	71.9%	75.5%
Females	33.0%	28.1%	24.5%

Table 11. Substance Involvement of Spouse Abuse Offenders

Substance Involvement	Initial Substantiated Cases	Subsequent Incidents	Re-opened Cases
Alcohol	23.6%	18.3%	23.3%
Drugs	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%
Alcohol and drugs	0.4%	0.6%	0.2%
Unknown	18.4%	23.4%	20.1%
No involvement	57.4%	57.4%	56.1%

Table 12. Offender History of Violence and Abuse

Category	Initial Substantiated Cases	Subsequent Incidents	Re-opened Cases
Previously referred to alcohol rehabilitation program	7.2%	8.4%	9.9%
Previously referred to drug rehabilitation program	0.4%	0.8%	0.5%
Involvement in previously established case of child abuse	2.8%	5.9%	4.9%
Involvement in previously established case of spouse abuse	8.6%	85.6%	80.5%
Offender previously abused as child	4.2%	4.9%	2.3%
Previous abuse history unknown	22.9%	3.8%	3.0%
No previous record of abuse	59.8%	6.3%	3.5%

Table 13. Location Where Incident Occurred

Incident Occurred	Initial Substantiated Cases	Subsequent Incidents	Re-opened Cases
On-Post	49.7%	51.6%	58.8%
Off-Post	50.3%	48.4%	41.2%

Table 14. Location of Spouse Abuse Victim Residence

Victim Resides	Initial Substantiated Cases	Subsequent Incidents	Re-opened Cases
On-Post	49.5%	51.1%	58.9%
Off-Post	50.5%	48.9%	41.1%

Table 15. Military and Civil Actions Following Initial Substantiated Spouse Abuse Cases

Action Involved	Cases	Military and Civil Actions*
Military Medical Services	22,762	40.4%
Civil Medical Services	743	1.3%
Military Family Services	40,614	72.2%
Civil Social Services	2,296	4.1%
Military Police Investigation	17,405	30.9%
Civil Police Investigation	5,062	9.0%
Military Court Involvement	913	1.6%
Civil Court Involvement	3,160	5.6%
Military Administrative Action	2,469	4.4%

*Percentages add to more than 100% because the number of incidents is compared to the total number of spouse abuse cases.

Table 16. Military and Civil Actions Following Subsequent Spouse Abuse Incidents

Action Involved	Cases	Military and Civil Actions*
Military Medical Services	2,447	48.3%
Civil Medical Services	107	2.1%
Military Family Services	3,429	67.7%
Civil Social Services	277	5.5%
Military Police Investigation	1,718	33.9%
Civil Police Investigation	655	12.9%
Military Court Involvement	144	2.8%
Civil Court Involvement	403	8.0%
Military Administrative Action	484	9.6%

*Percentages add to more than 100% because the number of incidents is compared to the total number of spouse abuse cases.

Table 17. Military and Civil Actions Following Re-opened Spouse Abuse Cases.

Action Involved	Cases	Military and Civil Actions*
Military Medical Services	1,469	42.1%
Civil Medical Services	42	1.2%
Military Family Services	2,457	70.3%
Civil Social Services	188	5.4%
Military Police Investigation	1,276	36.5%
Civil Police Investigation	313	9.0%
Military Court Involvement	80	2.3%
Civil Court Involvement	214	6.1%
Military Administrative Action	277	7.9%

*Percentages add to more than 100% because the number of incidents is compared to the total number of spouse abuse cases.